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It is the author's opinion that old-age dependency is often if not well nigh always not so much the fault of individuals as the fault of our social system. This is emphasized in a discussion of saving for old age when the author quotes approvingly the following from I. M. Rubinow's *Social Insurance*: "Special saving for old age would only be possible through a persistent, systematic and obstinate disregard of the needs of the working-man's family, which would make the preaching of such special savings a decidedly immoral force."

After reviewing in brief space the present methods of handling old-age dependency in the United States the author concludes that neither private charity in the home nor putting the aged into big institutions is a satisfactory way of solving the old-age problem. The final chapter is devoted to a discussion of the need of public provision for aged people in America. From an examination of the arguments for and against social-insurance and pension systems Miss Nassau concludes that "So far, no one system of provision for old age seems entirely satisfactory; all pension systems and all insurance systems seem to fail in some respects. But perhaps some combination or modification of these systems will be discovered." Obviously the author feels that, even were it not possible to find some such combination, public provision for old-age dependency would be preferable to the existing methods of meeting the problem. One can not help but ask himself, in reviewing Miss Nassau's charges against the present methods, whether their short-comings are inherent or only incidental. The reviewer regrets that the author did not stress with more force the fact that pensions (and he would add non-contributory social insurance) are not "a remedy for low wages—they are merely palliations while wages are low."

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## Socialism and Co-operative Enterprises

### NEW BOOKS

KIEFL, F. X. *Die Theorien des modernen Sozialismus über den Ursprung des Christentums.* (Munich: J. Köfel. 1916. Pp. 222. 3 M.)

MADSEN, A. W. *The state as manufacturer and trader. A criticism based on economic, industrial and fiscal results from government tobacco monopolies.* (London: Unwin. 1916. 7s. 6d.)

RUSSELL, H. A. *The new socialism.* (New York: Shakespeare Press. 1916. Pp. 111. 64c.)

WALLING, W. E. and others. *The socialism of to-day. A source-book of the present position and recent development of the Socialist and Labor parties in all countries, consisting mainly of original documents.* (New York: Holt. 1916. Pp. xvi, 642. \$1.60.)

To be reviewed.

### Statistics and Its Methods

#### NEW BOOKS

BOWLEY, A. L. *An elementary manual of statistics.* New edition. (London: Macdonald & Evans. 1915. 5s.)

*Statistical year-book of the Province of Quebec.* Second year. (Quebec: Provincial Secretary's Department, Bureau of Statistics. 1915. Pp. 675. \$1.)

*Summary of Commonwealth production statistics, for the years 1903 to 1913.* (Melbourne: Bureau of Census & Statistics. 1916. Pp. 167.)

*The official year book of New South Wales, 1914.* (Sydney: J. B. Trivett, Government Statistician. 1915. Pp. 1010. 2s. 6d.)